



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Create Holiday Memories with Virtual and In-Person Festivities in Gaithersburg

Gaithersburg, MD (November 6, 2020) Celebrate the holiday season with the City of Gaithersburg. From socially distanced visits with Santa and personal shopping appointments at the Arts Barn to virtual cooking classes and a dazzling drive through Winter Lights Festival, there's plenty of safe holiday fun for all ages.

For more information, explore the [Holiday Festivities calendar](https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/holiday-festivities-calendar) on the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

Holiday Art Market (in-person by appointment)

Friday, November 13 – Wednesday, December 30

Make an appointment to come by the Arts Barn to shop for unique, one-of-a-kind gifts made by local artisans in the Gaithersburg Artist Collective, a juried group of 30 talented individuals working in a wide variety of mediums. Appointments are available Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Market is closed on November 26 and December 24 and 25). Masks are required.

Sign up for a personal shopping appointment [here](#).

Let's Cook@Casey: Make-Ahead Hand Pies (virtual)

Saturday, November 14

10:30 a.m.

\$25 per device

Shake up your Thanksgiving table with a fun twist on traditional pies. Join Chef Carolyn Crow in this demonstration-style class as she prepares a variety of tasty turnovers – pies that fit in the palm of your hand! Best of all, they can all be made weeks ahead of the busiest cooking day of the year. Recipes may include Perfect Pie Dough, Cinnamon Apple Filling, Chocolate Pecan Filling, and Savory Sweet Potato Filling. Get pro pie tips and use the Q&A opportunity at the end to ask all of your “burning” baking questions! Register on online [here](#).

Jewelry Series Workshop: Snowflake Ornaments (virtual)

Sunday, November 15

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

\$61/\$55 City of Gaithersburg Residents

Make three fun and festive holiday snowflakes with wire forms and beads. This is an easy beginner class, suitable for all ages, with no experience necessary. The virtual workshop combines a recorded lesson with a live interactive session with the instructor and fellow students. Kits with printed directions are included in the

registration fee. You'll also need round nosed and flat nosed pliers, which are available on many online craft sites or can be purchased from the instructor and picked up at the Arts Barn for an additional \$10. You'll have a choice of two color colorways: Crystal/Red and Green/Blue or Pink/Turquoise/White.

Register online [here](#).

Winter Lights Festival (in-person, drive through)

Socially distancing since 1995!

Friday, November 27 – Thursday, December 31 (closed December 25)

Sunday – Thursday, 6 – 9 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, 6 – 9:30 p.m.

Monday – Thursday, \$15 per car

Friday – Sunday, \$20 per car

\$3 discount for online purchase, which is encouraged to limit contact at the Festival.

The 3.5 mile drive through the enchanted setting of Seneca Creek State Park takes you past more than 450 illuminated displays and beautifully strung trees that light up the night. Don't miss this favorite holiday tradition that's been going on for 25 years!

Purchase tickets online [here](#).

Family Mini Photo Session (in-person)

Sunday, November 29

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

\$115 provides 10 edited images

Get your family photos done before the holiday rush! Kentlands Mansion invites families to participate in 10-minute holiday photo sessions with Heartwing Photography. The beautifully decorated historic Kentlands Mansion provides the perfect backdrop for your family photos. Everyone, including families, photographer and staff, must wear masks while in the facility, although families are not required to wear masks during the actual photography session. Cleaning of frequently touched surfaces will take place between sessions.

Purchase your photo package and reserve your time [here](#).

Tasty Books: How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Chanukah? (in-person pick up for family fun at home)

Thursday, December 3

Casey Community Center

Pick up 1 - 4 p.m.

\$12

Enter the tasty and adventurous world of food, crafts, and books using all five senses. Now you can experience Casey's Tasty Books program at home with our new Tasty Books Kit. "How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Chanukah?" is a great book to celebrate the holiday. Come along on a joyful romp as America's favorite prehistoric pals spread a little mischief this season. From the warm glow of the candles in the menorah to the fun of family gatherings, little dinosaurs love to celebrate the Festival of Lights.

Purchase online [here](#).

Family Workshop: Holiday Cheer! (virtual)

Sunday, December 6

1 – 1:45 p.m.

\$23.50/\$21.25 City of Gaithersburg Residents

Gather as a family to virtually learn how to create unique holiday-inspired projects to keep or share with family and friends. A supply kit will be available.

Register online [here](#).

Tasty Books: Kevin's Kwanzaa (in-person pick up for family fun at home)

Thursday, December 10

Casey Community Center

Pick up 1 - 4 p.m.

\$12

Enter the tasty and adventurous world of food, crafts, and books using all five senses. Now you can experience Casey's Tasty Books program at home with our new Tasty Books Kit. "Kevin's Kwanzaa" is a great book to celebrate the holiday. Kevin's family is celebrating the seven days of Kwanzaa, and he helps with decorating, learning special words, and lighting candles with his whole family.

Purchase online [here](#).

Cool Yule (virtual)

Friday, December 11

8 p.m.

\$15 Concert Only, \$25 Concert + Exclusive Post-Concert Virtual Meet & Greet

The holidays get a smooth new groove when delivered Motown style. This upbeat, fun and soulful yuletide treat featuring Mark G. Meadows will be streamed live from the Arts Barn to enjoy in the comfort and safety of your own home. Meadows and his band, The Movement, reinvent your favorite holiday classics with their jazz, R&B, and gospel influenced sound. With songs ranging from The Temptations' "Little Drummer Boy," to Stevie's "What Christmas Means to Me," to The Ronettes' "Sleigh Ride," Mark G. Meadows & The Movement will be sure to have you grooving into the holidays with a contagious sense of joy and merriment. Sponsored by Hampton Inn & Suites and New Beginnings Psych.

Purchase tickets online [here](#).

Let's Cook@Casey: Classic Holiday Yule Log (virtual)

Saturday, December 12

10:30 a.m.

\$25 per device

The classic French holiday Bûche de Noël (Yule Log) can seem like a daunting undertaking in your home kitchen. Let Chef Maris Mokey guide you through the process step by step in this demonstration-style class. See how to make each component of this elegant traditional dessert, with a chance to ask the chef all your "burning" baking questions at the end!

Register online [here](#).

Special Storytime at the Arts Barn: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas (virtual)

Friday, December 18

7 p.m.

Free

Curl up with your warm drink and cookies to enjoy a virtual, live stream reading of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* told by Father Christmas himself. Following the reading will be a short video about the history of this classic story. Join the livestream on our Arts on the Green [Facebook page](#).

Gaithersburg Chorus Holiday Concert (virtual)

Saturday, December 19

7 p.m.

Free

The Gaithersburg Chorus will live stream its virtual holiday concert featuring *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Lost in the Stars*. Join the livestream on our Arts on the Green [Facebook page](#).

Santa's Holiday Tour

Santa Claus is coming to Gaithersburg! Select one of four holiday stops for unique opportunities to take a holiday family photo and interact with Santa from a safe distance. Bring your own camera. Masks must be worn at all times, and social distancing must be practiced. For the indoor events, temperatures will be taken prior to entry. Limited time slots available. Reservations are required for all events through RecXpress and Vendini. \$15 per household (Max of 6 in household). These events are sponsored by New Beginnings Psych.

Kentlands Mansion: Saturday December 5, 9 – Noon

Join us at the beautifully decorated Mansion to write Santa a letter, chat briefly with him while he helps deck our halls, and then grab a craft to take home. Purchase tickets [here](#).

Gaithersburg Community Museum: Saturday, December 5, 3 – 6 p.m.

Santa will pose for family photos while he chats and waves from inside the cab of the 1918 BC&G locomotive. A treat and craft project goes home with each child. Photo location requires stepping up onto a platform. Before making an online reservation, please call the Museum at 301-258-6160 if accommodations are necessary. This is an outdoor event. Rain/Snow date: Saturday, December 12, 3 – 6 p.m. Purchase tickets [here](#).

Casey Community Center: Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Wave to Mrs. Claus, who will be doing some holiday baking in the kitchen. Write a letter to Santa, and then peek in on the big guy as he helps us decorate for the holidays. Little ones will leave with a themed craft to complete at home. Click [here](#) to reserve your timeslot.

Gaithersburg Aquatic Center: Saturday, December 12, 1 – 3 p.m.

Grab your wish list for a unique chance to see the big man himself at the Gaithersburg Aquatic Center (bring your own camera). Each party will have the chance for a poolside photo with Lifeguard Santa, socially distanced of course! Santa's elves will be making a special trip from the North Pole to hand out a treat and craft to each participant as they exit. Click [here](#) to reserve your timeslot.

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